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Could This Family
be related to our
Elizabeth HOPE
DAVIS ??

Treasures of Pioneer History

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SO OUR CHILDREN MAY KNOW

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A FRIEND IN NEW ORLEANS

Martha Ann Tidswell, daughter of Richard Tidswell and Mercy Tidswell was born in the village of Northwormal, Yorkshire, England, November 1, 1826. She joined the Latter-day Saint Church in her nineteenth year and three years later married John Stockdale, another Mormon convert. Together they sailed for America hoping to gather with the Saints in Zion.

The young couple landed in New Orleans but, before they could go on, John contracted cholera and died leaving Martha Ann, a stranger in a strange land. Broken by sorrow she became an easy victim of the dreaded typhus fever so common in that climate. She would, most likely, have passed to the Great Beyond had it not been for the kindness of a gracious lady, Mrs. Martin, who took her into her home and gave her every care. It was some time before she regained her health. Ann was an expert seamstress, a trade she had learned in her native land and, in this manner, she tried to repay her benefactor. A real friendship grew up between the two women. Mrs. Martin asked Martha Ann to go with her to Paris, and upon their return live with her as her heiress. Martha Ann expressed her deep thanks, but said she must go on to Utah.

During her illness she had been unable to write to her people in England, and by the time a letter did arrive explaining her long silence, her sister, Mercy, was ready to come to America to find out what had happened to her. Her brother, Abraham, wrote informing her that Mercy was coming for her and pleaded with her to return to her own home in England.

With a few other Latter-day Saints Martha sailed up the Mississippi River from New Orleans to St. Louis and was there when her sister arrived. In the company with Mercy were Thomas Gower, his wife and three children. Shortly after reaching St. Louis Mr. Gower's wife and two children died of cholera leaving him with the care of a six-year-old daughter, Ann. Trouble usually draws people together and so a warm friendship was formed between Thomas Gower and Martha Ann which was climaxed by their marriage November 4, 1850. Two children were born to them in that vicinity one of whom passed away.

A company of Saints were making preparations to leave Council Bluffs for Utah so Thomas, Martha Ann and their two children, Ann and John, joined the outfit. They bought a wagon, four oxen, two cows and other equipment necessary for the trip. On the way Thomas became very ill and Martha Ann did most of the driving and taking care of the oxen. They arrived in Salt Lake City in the fall of 1854, footsore and weary from the long, hard journey.—*Hilma Sly*.

FAITH IN TOMORROW

My Grandmother, Emma Hope, was born in Burage, Wiltshire, England, April 17, 1845 the first child of David Hope and Eliza

Stone. Nine children followed her, six brothers and three sisters. She accepted the Gospel there. In 1864, when she was nineteen, her Uncle William Davis and family took passage for America. Just before they embarked, one of their children died. They took Emma Hope with them in place of the deceased child whose body was left with Emma's parents for burial.

During the long trek across the plains, many of the company were stricken with fever. Emma's aunt and two of the Davis boys succumbed and were buried on the plains, three more of the thousands of nameless graves which blazed the trail to the West. Emma continued the journey with her uncle.

When she arrived in Salt Lake, she made her home with Bishop Hunter. It was while living there that she met and fell in love with (1) John Stewart. Soon after their marriage the happy couple moved to Plain City and two small children came to bless their union, Elizabeth, born July 22, 1866 and John W., born October 11, 1868. Her happiness was short lived for soon the young father answered the last call of the Master.

In 1879, she married ⁽²⁾ William Geddes as a plural wife and with this union eight children were born. When her eldest son, John, was twenty-one years of age he was drowned and Emma was called upon again to face a great sorrow. When her daughter, Eliza, was six weeks old, her husband was called to fill a mission to his native Scotland and from there was transferred to Australia to preside over that mission until his release.

In 1880 the Geddes family moved to Preston, Idaho where they took up a homestead. They sold their farm a few years later and moved back to Plain City. Later an epidemic of Spinal Meningitis swept through the settlement taking many lives. Their daughter, Gertrude, ten years of age, contracted the disease and, at the request of doctors, a pit was dug and filled with mud in which the child was buried to her neck. When the mother could not bear the screams of the child any longer, she implored her husband to remove her and dedicate her to the Lord. As soon as he did this the spirit left the child's body.

On August 23, 1899 while her husband William was bagging grain on a thresher, he was stricken with a heart attack and died suddenly. This was a blow that was difficult to take.

Three of her daughters married three sons of John England and moved to Moreland, Idaho. She built a little home near her daughter, Eliza, where she lived for the next twenty years. Grandmother Geddes used to come to our house once a week to do the family mending. She was a woman who could not be idle and if we had no mending for her, she would not stay. I have many pleasant memories of my grandmother in her later years, the cookie jar always filled and the delicious new bread she baked with caraway seeds on top. Grandmother was thrifty, a good manager and financially independent. These

sterling qualities she had developed through the many trials and hardships of her busy and productive life.

One of the loveliest memories I shall ever treasure was the courtship of this gracious lady and silver haired John England. In the last years of their lives these two lonely people found love and a happy companionship. I can remember Grandmother, so shy, blushing like a young girl when Grandfather came calling. They used to sit by the door holding hands like two young lovers. They were married in 1920 and we reluctantly surrendered to Grandfather England our duties to Grandmother. They spent nine happy years together. Death came on August 21, 1929 and a noble woman was laid to rest in the Moreland cemetery.—*Lois E. Thomas.*

RICHARD

Richard Johnson was born in Norton, Herefordshire, England July, 1842, the son of Richard Johnson, Sr., and Ann Biddle. Richard's mother died when he was very young and his father married a widow by the name of Burston, who had a family. Richard and his father were the only members of the family who joined the Latter-day Saint faith, in 1853, when the family emigrated to Utah.

After arriving in the Valley the family went to Goshen, Utah settling at the "Bend of the Creek." Later they moved to Lower Goshen about three miles north and shortly after to the present site of Goshen. Richard, Sr., had charge of the "Field Fence" for a good many years. All the fields were fenced together, and stock pastured inside.

Richard Johnson, Jr., married Johanna Jorgenson in 1864. They established their first home in the south end of Goshen. About this time the old field fence was done away with and every man had his own land fenced. The U. S. Land Office was opened in Salt Lake City about this time and those who wanted land could enter their claims. It was necessary to move onto the land filed upon. The water had to be carried for home use from an open ditch a block away.

Very early in his married life, Richard Jr., found that the town of Mona was taking water from Goshen. Goshen had been using this water long enough to establish water rights to it. Richard, Jr., with a group of men, took the case to the courts and established their rights to the water. The Church disagreed with members going to court over this matter and excommunicated all who had participated in the case. However, Richard rejoined the Church, but many of the others never came back.

When Richard Jr.'s., fifth child, Yern Anthony, was born in 1874, they moved out in the field two miles north of Goshen where they homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres. At first they had one room and a cellar. Their only neighbors were the Han Jespersons. The